

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A recording medium conveying device that conveys a recording medium to a recording area, comprising:

a pair of first conveyor rollers that are provided upstream of ~~and adjacent to~~ the recording area and convey a recording medium by nipping the recording medium therebetween, ~~no roller being disposed between the pair of first conveyor rollers and the recording area;~~

a detector that detects a position of the recording medium;

a nipping force changing unit that changes a nipping force of the pair of first conveyor rollers; and

a controller that controls an operation of the nipping force changing unit in accordance with the position of the recording medium detected by the detector,

wherein the nipping force changing unit includes:

a cam member;

a cam follower that contacts with the cam member;

a spring that contacts with the cam follower; and

an arm that includes a receive portion and a roller holder portion, the receive portion receiving a force related to a position of the cam follower via the spring, and the roller holder portion holding a one of the pair of first conveyor rollers; and

a support shaft that rotatably supports the arm.

2. (Previously Presented) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 1, wherein the detector detects the position of the recording medium in accordance with a distance that the recording medium is conveyed by the pair of the first conveyor rollers.

3. (Previously Presented) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 1, wherein the detector detects a distance from the pair of first conveyor rollers to the trailing edge of the recording medium.

4. (Previously Presented) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 1, wherein the controller allows the nipping force changing unit to reduce the nipping force of the pair of first conveyor rollers, step by step, in accordance with a detection result of the detector.

5. (Original) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 1, further comprising a driver that drives the pair of first conveyor rollers, wherein the controller controls the driver so as to intermittently drive the pair of first conveyor rollers.

6. (Original) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 5, wherein the controller allows the nipping force changing unit to change the nipping force while the pair of first conveyor rollers are not driven.

7. (Original) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 5, further comprising a pair of second conveyor rollers that are provided downstream of the pair of first conveyor rollers and convey the recording medium, which is conveyed from the pair of first conveyor rollers, by nipping the recording medium therebetween, wherein the driver drives the pair of second conveyor rollers together with the pair of first conveyor rollers.

8. (Previously Presented) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 7, further comprising a condition change determining unit that determines whether a current condition is going to be changed by a next intermittent driving of the pair of first conveyor rollers performed by the driver, from a condition where the recording medium is conveyed by both the pairs of first and second conveyor rollers to a condition where the recording medium is conveyed by the pair of the second conveyor rollers only, wherein when the condition change determining unit determines that the current condition is going to be

changed to the condition where the recording medium is conveyed by the pair of the second conveyor rollers only, the controller reduces the nipping force of the pair of first conveyor rollers during the next intermittent driving of the first conveyor rollers, by means of the nipping force changing unit.

9. (Original) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 8, wherein the nipping force changing unit releases the recording medium from the nipping force of the pair of first conveyor rollers or reduces the nipping force of the pair of first conveyor rollers to a strength smaller than a maximum conveying force of the pair of first conveyor rollers that can be transmitted to the recording medium.

10. (Previously Presented) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 5, wherein a conveying distance of the recording medium by the pair of first conveyor rollers at an intermittent conveyance is gradually reduced proportional to an advance of the recording medium.

11. (Original) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 8, wherein the controller corrects the conveying distance of the recording medium by the pair of second conveyor rollers when the recording medium is released from the nipping of the pair of first conveyor rollers.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 1, wherein the pair of first conveyor rollers and the nipping force changing unit includes a plurality of pairs of first conveyor rollers and nipping force changing units which are disposed in a direction perpendicular to a recording medium conveying direction, and the controller controls each of the nipping force changing units such that nipping forces of all the nipping force changing units are the same strength.

15. (Original) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of pairs of first conveyor rollers and the plurality of nipping force changing units are disposed in a direction perpendicular to a recording medium conveying direction, and symmetrical with respect to a center line of the recording medium in a width direction of the recording medium, and the controller allows the nipping force changing unit to reduce the nipping force of a pair of first conveyor rollers disposed at a position further from a center of the recording medium in the width direction, prior to a pair of first conveyor rollers disposed at a position near the center of the recording medium.

16. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus that forms an image onto a recording medium, comprising:

an image forming device that forms an image onto the recording medium;

a platen that is provided facing a recording operating surface of the image forming device;

a pair of first conveyor rollers that are provided upstream of and adjacent to the platen and convey the recording medium by nipping the recording medium therebetween, no roller being disposed between the pair of first conveyor rollers and the platen;

a detector that detects a position of the recording medium;

a nipping force changing unit that changes a nipping force of the pair of first conveyor rollers; and

a controller that controls an operation of the nipping force changing unit in accordance with the position of the recording medium detected by the detector.

17-25. (Canceled)

26. (New) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 1, wherein the spring is disposed between the cam follower and the receive portion.

27. (New) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 1, wherein the receive portion is disposed at an end of the arm.

28. (New) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 1, wherein the cam member includes an eccentric cam.

29. (New) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 1, wherein the cam follower moves in an urging direction substantially perpendicular to a plane which includes both axes of the pair of first conveyor rollers.

30. (New) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 1, wherein the support shaft supports a portion disposed between the receive portion and the roller holder portion.

31. (New) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 1, further comprising a stopper that limits the movement of the arm.

32. (New) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 1, further comprising a stopper moveable between a first position at which the stopper contacts with the arm and a second position at which the stopper does not contact with the stopper, the stopper limiting a position of the arm when the stopper is at a first position.

33. (New) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 32, wherein the cam follower includes the stopper.

34. (New) The recording medium conveying device according to claim 32, wherein the second position of the stopper causes one conveyor roller of the pair of first conveyor rollers to be held away from the other conveyor roller of the pair of first conveyor rollers.